

REMARKS

Claims 21-40 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 23 is amended. Claim 23 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for a term used in the claim and to make this claim dependent on claim 21. No new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the rejected claims have already been searched and now depend from an allowable claim; and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because e.g. they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiners Baldwin and Zimmerman at the interview held August 30, 2007 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 21, 22, 25, 26, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37 and 39 contain allowable subject matter. As discussed during the interview, the objection to claim 21 does not require any amendment because the first time the terms "inflow end part side" and "outflow end part side" appear in this claim, the terms are preceded by the article "an." Thus, the objection is moot.

Claims 23, 24, 27, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ito, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0003728, now U.S. Patent No. 6,596,372. Claim 23 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 21. Support for this change may be found throughout the specification (including, for example, on page 9, lines 19-24).

In view of the amendment of claim 23 to make it dependent on allowable claim 21, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are similarly allowable. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Lynn E. Schwenning
Registration No. 37,233

JAO:LES/axl

Date: September 14, 2007

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
